

[Likely from

John J. Ford, Jr.]

July 29, 1956

Mr. F. C. C. Boyd
P.O. Box 153
Ringoos, N.J.

Dear F. C. C.-

It was certainly good to see you on Friday. That visit to 57th Street was a classic... we have never seen you get a bigger kick out of anything. C.M.W. was here last night for dinner, and we decided that the "Texas" Fantasy is too good. There will be no more "building it up." I'll have Franklin make up certificates, each of which will contain a photo of the impression it will accompany, and which will spell out the whole deal. We will take from ten to twenty-five impressions, depending upon the number of 1824-38 Republic of Mexico coins we can find. These will be distributed to our friends at about cost; each recipient will sign and acknowledge the receipt of a "Piece de Caprice." You will get a nice one. All I have to do is locate the coins.

I expect to be in Jamestown on Thursday- and therefore will miss you. However, maybe we can accomplish something anyhow.

Mrs. Norweb needs the following Mass. Silver coins:

Any NE SHILLING but Nos 1-A, III-C.

Any NE SIXPENCE, THREEPENCE.

Any WILLOW TREE SHILLING but Nos 8, 13, 15.

Any WILLOW TREE THREEPENCE.

OAK TREE SHILLINGS: Nos 6 (C. 1a-D), 8 (5-A).

OAK TREE SIXPENCES: Nos 15 (5-A), 18 (2-B), 20 (1a-D).

OAK TREE THREEPENCES: Nos 26 (4-A2).

LARGE PINE TREE SHILLINGS: Nos 3 (3-F), 7 (7-B3), 12 (6-K).

SMALL " " " " : Nos 21 (17-L), 20 (18-L), 15 (24-N), 14, 31.

PINE TREE THREEPENCES: Nos 35 (1-A2).

She has a duplicate No 13 (the "Crude Tree" small-size PT Shilling). Pick out anything from the above list that you might have a duplicate of, and which you would be willing to trade even for a No 13. We will make the trade for you. Naturally, this is a favor for both you and Mrs. Norweb.

Since you will owe us upon payment this week (by us) of the Encased Lot (\$7.250. to Mrs. Clarke), you might gather other duplicate Mass. Silver to build up your credit again. We could use any of this and the 1796 Half Cent for the Chicago Convention (I leave with my wife on Sunday, 8/19). Naturally, anything else you might locate would be desirable.

Tomorrow and Tuesday I will figure up the Green Hard Times Tokens and the California Gold. I'll probably call you on these Wednesday. At that

standard catalog of

WORLD COINS

700 E. State Street, Iola., WI 54990 -0001 ▪ 715/445-2214 ▪ Telex: 55-6461 ▪ FAX: 715/ 445-4087

Dear Eric, July 9, 1997

I just received a copy of this classic tome - and look what I ran across !

One never knows what will turn up of to a keen eye, eh?

Also - please send your friend's address, interested in Fred Borgman's banking book.

Have a nice day

Cheers!

Colin

Subj: **Willow Tree over NE shilling**
Date: 2/19/2003 4:20:37 PM Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: [PLMossman](#)

Dear Phil: When my crazy FAKE COIN CLUB OF AMERICA spoof reached Mike Hodder he wrote me because he realized it had a very serious undertone. In his letter he informed me that the above Massachusetts shilling which received all the publicity and was put into Stack's auction was a forgery. He said that because of all of his research on the coining process, etc. he had a preconceived notion that it could exist and being pressed to finish other work did not let his instincts take over. He stopped the coin from being sent to the high bidder. I think he indicated that he saw another Willow from the same dies somehow and that gave him the clue. After so many people got excited over the existence of the Willow / NE I wonder what the numismatic press is going to do to eat crow. They usually publish whatever is released This was the first I had heard that the coin was a forgery but was not too surprised. I am writing him whether he can identify the seller or find out who made the piece (the coin doctor) and if the matter would be looked into by PNG. I feel sorry that Gordon was drawn into this. I do not know what your contact with the matter is or was and if you feel like telling me it would be interesting. Never a dull moment. Eric

[10/20/2004]

THE WAMESIT PURCHASE, THE BEGINNING OF LOWELL

In 1687, one year after Jonathan Tyng purchased Pawtucket and the large parcels in New Hampshire from Wannalancet, he and Thomas Hinchman began the process called "The Wamesit Purchase." Tyng paid Wannalancet 150 pounds for the 2500 acres comprising Wamesit. Tyng and Hinchman collected fifty pounds apiece from fifty Chelmsford residents. In return, each resident was deeded one fiftieth of one half of the purchase. Tyng retained half for himself.

one mile along the Merrimac and six miles westward to Lake Massapoag. This land remained virtually intact. The retention of such an extensive tract under the control of the original owners for such a long period of time is probably unique in Massachusetts history. Tyng's agreement with the fifty purchasers of Wamesit is in the possession of the Lowell Historical Society. The names of the fifty proprietors of the Wamesit Purchase are recorded in the Proprietor's Book which also lists complete descriptions of each lot and the recipients. All related transactions regarding the proprietors including the laying out of the roads, allocated space for a pound, and common grazing ground are recorded in the book. Land was also set aside for the erection of a mill in the future. The date of its actual construction has not been determined, but

As late as 1877, the Tyng land measured

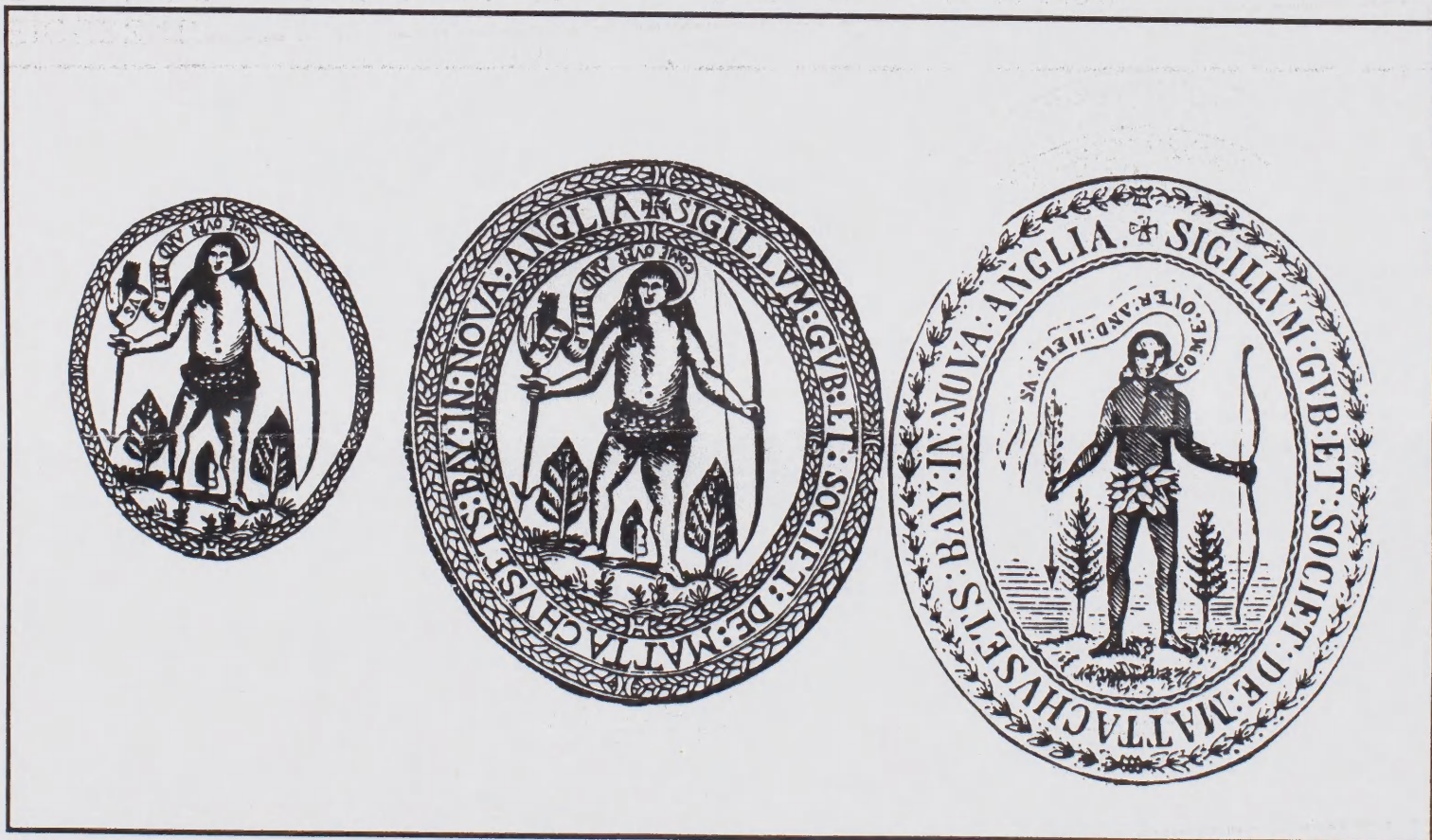


FIGURE 41.
Three Varieties of the Seals of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1629-1684).

TOBACCO ORIGINALLY GREW WILD ALONG RIVERS. TOBACCO, A PLANT OF THE POTATO FAMILY, WAS A MAJOR CROP IN MASS. & CONN. UNTIL THE 1920'S. NOTE THE CHANGE FROM THE TOBACCO LEAVES TO THE PINE TREE!!!

11
PENDERGAST ;

NOTE: THE SPELLING OF MASS. WITH TWO "TT".

NOTE: SEE THE TOBACCO PLANTS THAT WERE
CHANGED TO PINE TREES IN 1684.

NOTE: THE INDIAN SAYS COME OVER AND HELP.

NOTE: THAT THE ARCHBIS. OF SCOTLAND WROTE
A LETTER IN 1699 CALLING THE WILLOW
TREE SHILLING TREE A TABACCO PLANT
(AND THAT TREE COINS WERE COMMON BUT
NE SHILLINGS WERE RARE (1699)).

NOTE: WAYNE SHELBY FOUND A COUNTERFEIT
ENGLISH GOLD PIECE CUT IN HALF IN
NEW JERSEY.

Subj: **Article on Mass Silver in C4**
Date: 7/28/2008 5:25:48 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: cvs@mediaone.net

Dear Clem:

I have a question or so to ask you about the article by you and others in the latest C4 concerning cut down Mass Bay silver because I am working on a related topic.

I will not be at the ANA Convention but can be reached by telephone 314 727 0850 or by Email at any time.

Would you be nice enough to contact me at your convenience? Eric

Get fantasy football with free live scoring. [Sign up for FanHouse Fantasy Football today.](#)

Subj: **Coins from HMS Feversham**
 Date: 9/30/2008 12:38:03 PM Central Daylight Time
 From: egoldstein@CWF.org
 To: EricNumis@aol.com, jk@jkamericana.com, jkraljevich@yahoo.com, jlasser@nb.com,
PLMossman@aol.com

Gents,

At last, I have good news to report! I have tracked down the coins retained on behalf of Canada from those salvaged from the wreck of HMS Feversham. Although they are the property of the Nova Scotia Museum, they are currently on loan to the Maritime Museum in Halifax, NS where they are installed in some sort of shipwreck & pirate exhibit.

Much to my surprise, only SEVEN coins were retained! All came about as Canada was drafting up & implementing their treasure trove laws in the 1980s and things with this wreck were botched pretty severely. It seems no one thought to inventory the coins from the wreck before they were allowed to be dispersed. What a shame.

Stephen Powell, their curator, was kind enough to send me images of the coins, although he only photographed on side of each. I've taken the liberty of attaching images of all seven coins, along with their minimally informative, for your inspection & study.

As I offered to provide more information to Mr. Powell in turn for his sending the photographs, I've also taken the liberty of sending my opinions about them on to ya'll;

BIBw-2:12-Coin-Two Escudos

This 2 escudos coin was struck at the mint at Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia sometime between 1665 and 1700. While the initials of the assayer are not visible (they would be to the right of the shield) due to unevenness of the strike, we can date this piece by the last "S" (at 6:30) of "Carolus" followed by the ordinal "II" for King Charles II of Spain. According to Joseph R. Lasser and Jorge Emilio Restrepo's *"The Cob Coinage of Colombia"* (the standard work on these coins – ISBN 0-9702574-0-6), this piece falls under the Type M66 category. More information could be gleaned from an image of the reverse of this coin. Regardless, this is a superb example!

BIBw-2:13-Coin-Two Escudos

Struck at the same mint as the above 2 escudos, at about 4:00 appear to be a slightly doubled "S," which is possibly the top part of the mark of Jose S. Soto Maldonado, who was the assayer at Bogota c.1677-1678. This coin is fairly typical for this mint's production, being multiple struck with incomplete legends and devices. As with the previous coin, more information could be gleaned from an image of the reverse.

BIBw-2:14-Coin-Taler

WOW!!! How neat to have one of these from the wreck of the Feversham via New York City! This taler was struck in Frankfurt am Main, a German State, in 1620. It's catalogue numbers are Davenport-5287 and KM-65.1

BIBw-2:15-Coin-Eight Reales

Struck at the Potosi Mint in Bolivia in 1688, it carries the initials (a conjoined VR) at about 3:00 of the assayer Pedro de Villar. The wreck of the Feversham is especially important not only for its cache of Massachusetts silver coins, but for its plugged

Spanish-American silver coins. This practice was done to bring otherwise light coins up to standard weight for the denomination, regardless of the rudeness of the method. To my knowledge, no other colonial period wrecks have yielded such coins.

BlBw-2:16-Coin-Pine Tree Shilling

In this case, to more specifically attribute this coin, one would need to see the other side. This "small planchet" Pine Tree shilling die was paired with a number of obverse dies and used to strike the Noe-16 through Noe-22 varieties.

BlBw-2:17-Coin-One Reale

To be correct, this coin is a 1 real (not reale). It was struck at the Lima, Peru mint in 1696 under the assayer Francisco Hurtado, whose mark of an "H" is visible in the lower left section of the "tic tac toe" design.

BlBw-2:19-Coin-Half Reale

This 1 real (not reale) was struck in 1654 at the Potosi, Bolivia mint under the assayer Antonio de Ergueta, whose "E" mark can be faintly seen at 8:00.

Interesting lot of coins, eh?

With best wishes,

Erik

Erik Goldstein
Curator of Mechanical Arts and Numismatics
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Box 1776
Williamsburg, VA 23187
USA
(757) 565-8956
egoldstein@cwf.org

Subj: **Visit and Oak 2d**
Date: 12/27/2008 1:01:04 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: sfmartin5@comcast.net
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric: I wanted to thank you again for your courtesy in visiting with me on the 15th. It was a real joy to have an opportunity to get to know you and your lovely wife.

I've attached obverse photos of the Oak Tree 2d that was ostensibly found at the bottom of the Thames River in England -- I believe it to be a near-contemporary counterfeit. I'll send another email with reverse photos.

Syd





Subj: **Masathvsets**
Date: 5/5/2009 8:52:16 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: [PLMossman](#)
To: [EricNumis, ljordan@nd.edu](#)

Hi Eric and Lou:

I'm back to work full steam ahead on my counterfeit book with some fine tuning. I ran into something of interest with the fake Mass pine tree, Noe - I, MASSATVSETS] which started me checking out Hull's spelling of Massachusetts, which he rendered as MASATHVSETS. This seemed to bother Noe also who discusses it on pp. 34-36 of his NE and Willow Tree Monograph, No. 102.

It would appear that the earliest spellings in the 1629 charter referred to the land "comonlie called MASSACHUSETTS, alias MATTCHUSETTS, alias MASSATUSETTS BAY." I assume the U was then written V - but that is a style issue, not an orthographic variant. Apparently MASSACHVSETTS was the first choice of spelling in 1629. On the colonial seal it was MATTACHUSETTS. In Civil War days, I found reference to the "Fifty-fourth Regiment of Masachusetts Volunteer Infantry," one S.

So why did Hull use MASATHVSETS? According to Noe, the use of a single S and single T as in MASATHVSETS was the style consistently used by Noe in all diaries. Noe suggests that Hull would not have used that unc customary spelling on his coins without some authority. So what was the authority and where did he find it? Maybe it was a spacing issue?? At least he was consistent. The T for the CH was a commonly used and acceptable substitution.

Any thoughts? This has nothing to do with counterfeiting - but just an exercise in serendipity!

Best,
Phil

Remember Mom this Mother's Day! [Find a florist near you now.](#)

Subj: **Re: NE research**
Date: 1/19/2010 12:51:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
To: ericonumis@aol.com
Eric,

Good talking to you yesterday. I plan to drive to St. Louis (weather permitting) on the 28th (Thursday next week) and meet with you on Friday the 29th. If there is too much to do in one day, we could meet again on Saturday. Based on our discussion yesterday that should work for you.

Will we be meeting at your library/museum at Washington University? I know how to get there. If its otherwise, please let me know the address.

Looking forward to seeing you, your coins, and other items you have dug-out!

Best

Jack

--- On **Mon, 1/18/10**, ericonumis@aol.com <ericonumis@aol.com> wrote:

From: ericonumis@aol.com <ericonumis@aol.com>
Subject: NE research
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, January 18, 2010, 3:21 PM

Dear Jack:

In view of your message to me last year that you wanted to come to St. Louis after the first of the new year for an examination of my holdings and data on Massachusetts NE material I dug out my genuine pieces and quantities of fakes, my early English catalogs, my correspondence and records. I found my opinions on a number of pieces sent in to me by the ANA Certification Service. I have had the silver content of a couple of pieces examined by the physics department of Washington University here. The weather has cleared up for the present but there are no guaranties of conditions in case you want to come.

I asked Ken Bressett whether the files of the ANA Certification Service was available and he told me that the ANA has two tremendous warehouses with all of its records but he wondered about its availability in view of new personnel and other normal priorities and problems.

Please let me know your thinking and feel free to telephone me at any time during the day at 314 727 0850 or by Email.

Your research which you sent me is amazing and I hope I can add to it. Eric

Subj: **Thanks for helping**
Date: 1/31/2010 7:33:12 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com
Eric,

Thanks for helping me with my work on the Mass NE coinage. I very much enjoyed our visit.

One think I forgot to do was write down the weight/diameter data on the NE VI. I saw it on the envelope you had in the tray. Could you email that data to me? Also if you have it the weight and diameters on your NE XII.

I have included a digital image of the oak timber from the first mint for Joel O. I will also send you a hardcopy photograph. That will take a couple weeks as I send images in batches to a photoprinter. You and they can use the image however, you wish too.

See you again soon!

Jack

Subj: **Re: hello again**
 Date: 6/1/2010 8:14:38 A.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric,

Many thanks for your help. Is it likely that you will be able to reach the vault before the end of June (when CNL needs to get to the printer)? If not, I will have to run Jack's article without your data and then reprint the coins with their weights and diameters in a future issue once you have had a chance to check. We are trying to get the August CNL out a little early this year in anticipation of the colonial-themed ANA show in Boston.

I'll try to take your good advice about not falling. A broken neck vertebra does not sound like much fun.

Phil will show me his new version of the counterfeit chapters once he has made his current round of revisions. He was hard at work last time I heard from him.

Best regards,
 Oliver

On 31-May-10, at 4:45 PM, EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

Dear Oliver:

I will send you the NE data as soon as I get to the appropriate bank vault. I am getting along pretty well they tell me. Do not fall. All I did was break my neck vertebra.

Please have Phil send you the copy of the suggestions I made for his counterfeit opus. Contact me any time I can be a help on any numismatic area I have worked in.
 Eric

In a message dated 5/23/2010 2:46:37 P.M. Central Daylight Time, oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca writes:

Dear Eric,

I hope you are feeling better soon. I had heard from Phil that you had taken a fall.

If you are able to provide it, Jack and I would be very grateful if you could let me know the weights and diameters for your NE shilling (ex Mills 1904, lot 4) and NE sixpence (ex Green estate). We would like to include this data with the images in Jack's article for the next CNL.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,
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On 23-May-10, at 9:10 AM, PLMossman@aol.com wrote:

In a message dated 5/22/2010 6:28:43 P.M. Eastern
 Daylight Time, EricNumis@aol.com writes:

Please send me Oliver Hoover's email as I do not think I
 have it. I know Jack Howes wants the weight and
 dimensions of one of my NE pieces but forgot which one or
 ones he wanted .

Oliver's address is: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca

Continue to mend! I always told patients to consider rolling walkers in the same light as an insurance policy. You don't need one until you need one, and then you so thankful you have it!

Best,
Phil

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Subj: **Re: hello again**
 Date: 6/19/2010 3:03:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: EricNumis@aol.com
 To: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca
 CC: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Oliver:

I was able to get to my NE silver pieces and have tried to take the measurements which you and Jack Howes requested. Recovery from my fall has been an unpleasant delay. I find that my NE shilling weighs 71.5 grains. Its horizontal diameter from the NE side is 1.141 inches and its vertical diameter from the NE side is 1.178 inches. You will convert the diameters to mm if that is more convenient. My NE 6 pence weighs 36.4 grains. Its NE is struck on a tilt and the vertical position is difficult to determine. The horizontal diameter on the NE side is .881 inches more or less and the vertical diameter is either .872 or .890 depending on the way you determine what is vertical because the lower end of that part of the coin is irregular and not a smooth curve. My nice plastic calipers does not want to hold still.

I look forward to the article with great enthusiasm.

Eric

In a message dated 6/1/2010 8:14:38 A.M. Central Daylight Time, oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca writes:

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Best,
Phil

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Subj: **RE: hello again**
 Date: 6/21/2010 6:16:45 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca
 To: ericnumis@aol.com
 CC: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Eric,

Many thanks for this information. Unfortunately, the production schedule for CNL got pushed a little earlier in June than I had originally planned and I won't be able to insert this into Jack's article. I will include an addendum in the December issue reprinting the two entries and images for these coins with your new information.

Oliver

From: EricNumis@aol.com
 Date: Sat, 19 Jun 2010 16:02:58 -0400
 Subject: Re: hello again
 To: oliver.hoover@sympatico.ca
 CC: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Oliver:

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Continue to mend! I always told patients to consider rolling walkers in the same light as an insurance policy. You don't need one until you need one, and then you so thankful you have it!

Best,
Phil

28 June 2010, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Dear Eric,

Hope you are doing better. I heard that you had fallen. Sorry this took so long to return. I intended to bring it back personally but things have been busy for me since I visited with you.

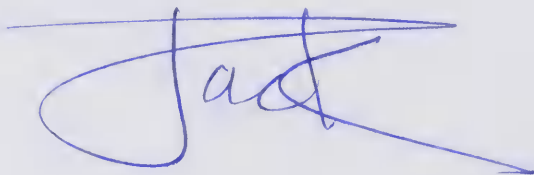
I made an index of the materials in this file. And separated the papers into folders. There are few items I don't think were related to this particular file and I have left them outside of any folder for you to review e.g., a photocopy of a catalog you made for me and a couple of unrelated pictures. Also a letter about gold.

I have also included a page on what I think about the B&M "NE shilling". It is a very puzzling coin. A lot of the details are very convincing. The one thing that seems false to me is the lack of the line break from the bottom of the E. I noticed it lacked this when I examined it at your house and the photos I took clearly show it missing also. This wouldn't be bad if the die state of the reverse was earlier than yours but its not its later (see enclosed photo). So, I conclude the coin is not genuine but the most deceptive copy I have seen.

Did you do any elemental analysis of this coin?

Hope to be able to get out to see you sometime later in the year.

Best,
Jack

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

SPN



SPN



Eric,

My analysis of the B&M coin: absolutely no sign of break from bottom of E (I saw this when I examined the coin at your house) but you can clearly see the line break on yours (upper left). While on the reverse yours is an earlier die state ie. No bulging about left bar of X. So, this my strongest evidence that the B&M coin was fabricated.

Subj: **Answer to your Winthrop meeting question**
Date: 7/21/2010 2:15:11 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: markb@HA.com

Dear Mark:

The article on Massachusetts NE coinage is written by Jack Howes and will be published by CNL very promptly by ANS. I was informed by Oliver Hoover that the type has already been set and no further corrections are possible. I presume the John Winthrop example has been included as Howes has gone back to old sources. Please inform Winthrop that my daughter (then Linda Solomon) now Linda Schapiro remembers the discussion and him 30 odd years ago when I was contacted. I might now guess that Richard Picker, my close numismatic friend, may have made the appraisal for Winthrop then.
If there is anything further you need please contact me.

Eric

Subj: **Need to talk to you**
Date: 11/14/2010 7:35:26 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Jack

Greetings. I have a problem as to a NE shilling, which coin I do not think you have been aware of. I would like to talk to you about it. I telephoned you a few days ago and you were not at home. Wherever you are would you Email me or telephone me at 314 727 0850. I would appreciate it. Eric

Subj: **Re: Need to talk to you**
Date: 11/14/2010 8:59:45 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
Hello Eric,

I have been in Boston most of the week. I just picked up your voice mail from a couple days ago. I will call you tomorrow morning and we can discuss this NE shilling.

Jack

From: "EricNumis@aol.com" <EricNumis@aol.com>
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Sent: Sun, November 14, 2010 8:35:26 PM
Subject: Need to talk to you

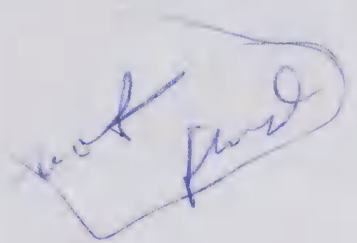
Dear Jack

Greetings. I have a problem as to a NE shilling, which coin I do not think you have been aware of. I would like to talk to you about it. I telephoned you a few days ago and you were not at home. Wherever you are would you Email me or telephone me at 314 727 0850. I would appreciate it. Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 16, 2010



Mr. Jack Howes
19967 E Doyle Place
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

Dear Jack:

In accordance with our telephone conversation I told you that a NE shilling had been sent to me for authentication. I am information that it was found about 20 years ago in the ground in Falmouth, Maine along with four coins, a copper shoe buckle plus a silver ornament (a shoe buckle or other decoration). The four coins are heavily deteriorated by emersion in soil and many parts are unreadable. The coins are copper with apparent underground chemical deterioration. One of the copper coins is a Connecticut piece, probably 1787; another is a George II, British halfpence; and the third is a George III British halfpence. Whether the two British pieces are counterfeit or not, I have not yet determined.

I enclosed an enlarged picture of the NE shilling, which has a circular hole above the NE. The hole is so round that it must have been drilled or punched and does not seem to me to be a nail hole. On the denomination side the extrusion of the metal from the hole has been hammered flat. The hole position is similar to many Massachusetts coins for sewing onto women's clothing in the West Indies or Central or South America, as well as for attachment to Native American arm bands and other decorative Indian wear. The piece has been substantially handled and the edge shines. The reduced weight may be from edge filing. There are two prominent dents on the edge. The surfaces of each side are dark with splotches scattered about. The weight is on the enclosed pictures at 63.7 grams.

I believe I am restricted from disclosing the submitter source of the pieces sent to me. I would very much appreciate your comments. I will try to find the specific gravity and fineness and adulterant if my friends at Washington University will do this for me.

I am enclosing a copy of an offprint of my recent Audubon write up.

As I told you, I look forward to a visit to St. Louis by you at any soon mutually convenient time and will be glad to simplify my thinking on the NE shilling which you felt lacked a die break on one side.

For your convenience my telephone number, which you already have, is 314 727-0850 and my Email is ERICNUMIS@AOL.COM.

My best regards,

Eric P. Newman
President

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 16, 2010

Mr. Jack Howes
19967 E Doyle Place
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

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My best regards,

Eric P. Newman
President

11/22/2010

Dear Jack:

With respect to the NE shilling which you examined and photographed in St. Louis, you were kind enough to send me comparative pictures of it and a piece which you were satisfied as genuine.

As I reported to you, in the meantime I concluded that planchets were prepared first and then a substantial group of the planchett was punched on one side first and dropped into a container. This enabled one punch to be stabilized in some kind of a holder or guide.

Any damaged which occurred to the first punching would not be in a particular order when the punch was applied to the other side.

The most practical way to punch each side was not to punch one side of a planchet and then punch the other side because the punch would have to be changed continually causing much more work and causing more errors.

For me to study the matter a little more, I would appreciate photographs of each side of a genuine piece with the punched area the same size as the punch area on my questionable piece. In that way it would be easier to compare the various elements.

Eric

11/23/2010

Dear Jack:

With respect to the NE shilling which you examined and photographed in St. Louis, you were kind enough to send me comparative pictures of it and a piece which you were satisfied as genuine.

As I reported to you, in the meantime I concluded that planchets were prepared first and then a substantial group of the planchett was punched on one side first and dropped into a container. This enabled one punch to be stabilized in some kind of a holder or guide.

Any damaged which occurred to the first punching would not be in a particular order when the punch was applied to the other side.

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For me to study the matter a little more, I would appreciate photographs of each side of a genuine piece with the punched area the same size as the punch area on my questionable piece. In that way it would be easier to compare the various elements.

Eric

Subj: **Your idea on how NE shillings were struck**
Date: 11/29/2010 9:10:41 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
To: ericnumis@aol.com
Eric,

It was good to talk with you on the phone a couple weeks back! I was driving back from C4[Boston] at the time. I have been busy with Thanksgiving and various other activities and have not had a lot of time to think about your idea on how the NE shillings might have been struck i.e.,

"that perhaps they were cut out and put in some kind of a jig and struck one side and then tossed in a bucket. Once all the blanks had been struck they were pulled from the bucket flipped to the blank side and positioned correctly (or as close as a quick placement could get) and then the reverse punch was struck."

The implications of this seem to me that there should be a pretty random correlation of obverse die state to reverse die state.

I see a pretty strong correlation but its NOT perfect. In fact in the article I wrote for CNL I commented that I had found a contradiction of the strict correlation of obverse die state to reverse on the 1-A,2-A,3-A sequence [image of Figure 9 from the article attached]. I did not have an explanation. I think you have hit on what happened. So, I agree that at least some of the NE must have been struck in this manner.

There may be other implications that we have not considered also -- I will think about this some more.

However, it seems to me that I see more correlation of Obv to Rev die state than I would expect if this was truly just random. Do you have any thoughts about this?

Now, given that I agree some of the NEs were likely struck obverse first, put aside and then the reverses struck, the B&M coin could be an example of this. My primary objection to that coin is that the obverse has no break at all but that the reverse was not the earliest die state. [attached is my initial analysis of this coin that I sent you earlier in the year]. Perhaps this is a good example.

Are you interested in a joint article for CNL about this idea and perhaps using the B&M coin as an example? I would write up a draft that you could edit.

Hope you are doing well and had a good holiday!

Best,
Jack

P.S. You said you were going to send an image of the ground found NE. I did not receive anything yet. Oh and I thought I might be able to get out to St. Louis to visit with my brother in December but that does not look like its going to happen.

Subj: **Re: Request**
 Date: 12/27/2010 10:15:39 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com
 Eric,

I did get quite distracted with kids and holidays but now that is pretty much past. I hope the year 2011 (your 100th) is a good one for all of us!

This response is also in the Word document attached along with some images I made up for this response. I did get your pictures several weeks ago and I have made up some additional pictures that I am mailing to you:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->enlargement of punch area [Obv&Rev] of the 2nd NE example we looked at [pulled from 2004 B&M Baltimore auction and now owned by EPN foundation].

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->Similar enlargement of your original NE shilling [Mills]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->Overlay of your NE XII obverse punch area on the holed example you are studying (we should talk on the phone once you see this image – overlays are difficult to interpret and are of questionable usefulness)

My observations on your 2nd NE example are:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a) <!--[endif]-->I generally agree with your idea on how these were likely struck (but I will call you to talk directly about this also)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->b) <!--[endif]-->Your idea also solves an inconsistency I found but could not explain – I found several examples that appeared to violate normal die state progression (last paragraph page 3548)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->c) <!--[endif]-->My reasoning for this being a fake was strongly predicated on the fact the reverse die state (not early) did not correlate properly with the obverse die state (no trace of a break from the bottom of the E), thus with your proposed striking method, my reasoning no longer holds up. Thus this could very well be a genuine example as it appears so in every other particular, I believe. Do you have specific gravity and metallic content of this item? I don't recall seeing this data.

I would be happy to draft a short article (that we could jointly author) about your proposed striking method and use this example along with the others I have called out in my article as explaining the inconsistency I noted. Furthermore, assuming there is nothing else that marks this coin as fake, the article could declare this 2nd Newman coin as a genuine example. Let me know whether or not you think this is a good idea for a short paper.

On the holed example you are studying. My first impressions were that it was a fake of some kind.
Observations that tend to convince me this is a fake:

Obverse

1. The edge of the punch on top seems too far from the tops of the lettering. Possibly this coin is slightly double struck at the left which may answer this question. The images are not of sufficient resolution for me to be able to assess whether it may be double struck. I do seem to see a step in the border in the middle of the hole.
2. The hole is clearly done with a drill and seems to me to be pretty recent. Have you measured the diameter of the hole to see if it's a standard size e.g., 1/4"?
3. I don't really like the looks of the edge of this coin.
4. The point at which the left leg of the N joins the diagonal seems wrong (see attached comparison images).
5. The ends of all three crossbars of the E seem to be the wrong shape but this could be due to built up rust/gunk.
6. No indication of a break from E to the edge of the punch (the two coins we are talking about are the only Noe 1s that do not show at a least a faint break)

Reverse

1. Not a match for any of the genuine reverses.
2. Design seems awfully flat in comparison with genuine reverses.

Observations that might convince me this is not a fake:

Obverse

1. If we can show that border is not the wrong spacing from the top of the lettering
2. The overlay tended to show that the designs pretty much lay right on top of one another as one would expect for a genuine example (or one that was copied from an original somehow). But again we should talk directly about this overlay I did.

Reverse

1. If we conclude this is a new reverse.

Let me know what you think about my points. Also were you able to get specific gravity and fineness and adulterants from Wash Univ?

Oh and thanks for the kind words about my article!

Best regards,

Jack

From: "EricNumis@aol.com" <EricNumis@aol.com>
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Sent: Mon, December 27, 2010 4:28:13 PM
Subject: Request

Dear Jack;

Now that you have Xmas partying behind you and will be happy to get back to numismatic research I want to wish you and yours a wonderful 2011 and beyond.

You will recall that I sent you images of images of both faces of two NE XII, The holed one was sent to me for my opinion and the other one you felt was not genuine because the obverse which you said appeared genuine did not go with the appropriate reverse. The second one belongs to my foundation.

I pointed out later that one side of the coin might have been struck in a group before the other side was struck and there could have been variants in obverse and reverse combinations and that it would be simpler and quicker to do it that way and result in fewer errors.

Would you be kind enough to give me your observations about the pieces at this time. You do not have to give me opinions but just your thoughts. In that way you can change your mind or add to your observations,

I am sure that many people have praised your study published in CNL and appreciated the care and difficulty you had creating it.

Eric

Subj: **Request**
Date: 12/27/2010 3:28:13 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Jack;

Now that you have Xmas partying behind you and will be happy to get back to numismatic research I want to wish you and yours a wonderful 2011 and beyond.

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I am sure that many people have praised your study published in CNL and appreciated the care and difficulty you had creating it.

Eric

Subj: **Re: NE research**
 Date: 1/7/2011 7:20:15 A.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com
 Eric,

I take your point about jointly authoring a paper with your 2nd NE as part of the analysis. I was definitely considering as part of the article an update on a number of other counterfeits and copies. Some fairly deceptive but most not. I will draft something for you to review - probably will take a bit of time for this. I am considering discussing the Willow over an NE that was condemned a few years back. Did you ever see that coin in the metal and study it? Or do you have high quality images of it? I am attaching what I have.

On the holed NE XII you are studying, what I was referring to about the edge was looking from the reverse, I see bare metal all around the edge of the piece and it appears that all you see on the edge (but I can't really see the edge, so please verify) is also bare metal. Does not seem to me like this is typical of metal buried for long periods. See attached image of NE VI recovered from field in Long Island for comparison. I would expect the edge to have the same patina as both front and rear surfaces and for that patina to be pretty uniform. Again for example check the attached image. The only other point about the obverse was: is there any evidence of double striking of the punch. If not I would be very inclined to consider it a counterfeit as the upper punch margin is way to large (wide).

I will work up a more detailed treatment of the reverse punch with example/comparison images. It's pretty clear to me that the reverse is a different punch, not one that was reworked but I will study on that further. If I am correct that its a different punch, that can be interpreted in different ways: either a new reverse or evidence of a counterfeit.

I will be looking for the metrology results from Wash. Univ.

I did send you some hard copy photographs. Let me know when you get them as I wanted to call and discuss the overlay one with you on the phone.

Best,
 Jack

From: "EricNumis@aol.com" <EricNumis@aol.com>
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Sent: Tue, January 4, 2011 3:26:11 PM
Subject: NE research

Dear Jack:

I have been thinking over your 12/27/10 message to me and am glad you had the opportunity to give further thought to the problems.

I appreciate the invitation to join with you in writing further comments on some of the NE matters needing review. Before I can make a decision I need some facts from you. Do you already have some other supplementary matters to add to what you published in CNL? As to my suggestion about the practicability of punching many pieces on one side first before beginning to punch the other sides (causing no orderly relationship of the combinations of variations in die breaks or defects between sides) I am perfectly willing for you to use that proposition without me being an author of the entire article. If I were a coauthor it might be construed by some people to be a way of my trying to get my NE XII from forgery status to genuineness. You have done virtually all the research and you already said that the obverse seemed genuine to you and that the denial of listing was because of the combination with the wrong state of the reverse.

I am wondering if you have considering publishing any counterfeits, copies or forgeries. You could merely list or illustrate in actual size those with obvious differences because some of your readers might need that. You could say you may not have all of these as yet and want additions.

Now as to the holed NE XII submitted to me for an opinion you raised the question as to whether the

diameter of the hole was done with a modern drill. I do not think there would be a reason for a contemporary or modern counterfeiter to drill a hole in his or her counterfeit. The other reason I would doubt this is that the opposite side of the drilled hole on the piece has leftovers which a modern drill would not have left and these leftovers were hammered flat. I think that indicates an early decorative use. Do you see anything else wrong with the holed piece? You mention the edge but please explain as it may be eaten away by being underground a long time.

I think you should arrange for more extensive explanation as to whether the differences in punch appearances are modifications of the same punch or punches or entirely separate punches. It seems to me that the sweeping curves of the N would show real differences if more than one punch was used. The XII punch would be more difficult to study because it is easy to widen, thicken or shave a rigid element or have that happen by use. If the NE VI pinches were the same pinches on all known genuine pieces are there die breaks or spread elements to study in order to see what happens to a punch when used.

My friends at Washington University are going to take new weights and specific gravities as well a fineness tests on the various pieces after I get some others out of a bank vault.

If you prefer to discuss some matters by telephone please do so any time. 314 727 0850. Eric

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 1/14/2011 3:27:32 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Jack:

I have been reviewing with great interest your message of January 7, 2011. As to the Willow Tree over an NE shilling, I was advised that Tony Terranova turned it up from another dealer. A picture of it, I believe, is in Louis Jordan's book on Hull. The coin was described to me by someone connected with ANS and stated to be a forgery. Where I learned this I do not know, but Terranova returned the coin to its source and apparently did not wish to disclose the name of the source. I never saw the coin. I presume you can follow the above to learn more about it.

As to the holed NE XII, which I am studying for someone, I am told that the owner bought it and held it for about 20 years after it was discovered in a garden in the early 20th century in Falmouth, Maine. During all that period it would have been handled by the edge very often and could easily have its edge become shiny. I have no reason to think that its history is not accurate.

I thank you for the hard copies of it, which you sent to me, but do not understand the layover of the holed NE piece and some of the triangular corners aim at the outlines of the punch.

After you telephone me, I will be glad to ask either Louis Jordan or Philip Mossman further questions for you unless you can obtain the information or already have obtained it.

My best to you,

Eric

Subj: **Re: Willow Tree over NE shilling**
Date: 1/16/2011 7:52:08 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com
Eric,

Yes, I do want to include this one in the write-up I am doing. I am following a lead and may have more info when I call you today (Sunday).

I will be interested to hear what you find out also.

Best
Jack

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Sent: Sat, Jan 15, 2011 22:32:43 GMT+00:00
Subject: Willow Tree over NE shilling

Dear Jack:

Because I could not fully answer the question you asked me about the above coin I was able to have my copy of Lou Jordan's book on Hull located at my Museum Library and brought to my house for examination.

The coin in question was a last minute addition at the end of the book in 2002 and had been previously been described by Hodder in CNL. The photos in Jordan are beautiful but the description of the coin elements is not understandable to me and I read it several times. It has a hole in it. Jordan used the description of what was presented to him. Phil Mossman had helped with the write up

Under these circumstances I am going to telephone Lou later today to ask him who determined it was a fake and where the write up of that data was. Then I will ask him more. Then I will telephone Phil and get the rest of the dope.

You can telephone me tomorrow and I should share what I can with you. By then you may have more data on the matter than I. I presume it is the right thing to do to include it in anything you write on non genuine NE coinage.

Eric

314 727 0850

Subj: **Re: Mass silver**
 Date: 2/2/2011 4:41:39 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jackhowes@yahoo.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com
 Eric,

I had someone scan me a copy of this article.

I also don't know the author but I will ask around about him.

I don't know where he got his information but he made other mistakes also. He indicated three denominations were struck: shilling, tuppence and thruppence. Missed the sixpence and as we know the twopence was only struck as Oaks.

The article is a kind of hack job.

On the rocker press part, I have no idea where he got his information from. Probably read something indicating Willows were struck on a rocker press and just assumed that meant NEs also!

Probably the clearest indicators that NEs were not struck on a rocker press is the non opposing punches. That would make absolutely no sense for any kind of press. I do agree with your point about if it had been they would have been more uniform e.g., all of the alignments would have been 180.

Probably worth doing a letter to editor follow-up.

Thanks for sharing that Woodward catalogue. Neat find. Clearly documents your Noe 12 Pinetree as Castine hoard. Where and when did you acquire the coin?

Also, in that catalogue were two lots of NE shillings that I had missed! And a reference to an NE threepence.

I am attaching an animated gif to this email. It should automatically flip back and forth between two images of NE shillings. One your Mills coin and the other the holed one you are studying. It shows the difference between the alignments. Specifically you can see the difference of the top edge of the punch quite easily.

Let me know if this worked for you i.e., could you see the animation on whatever computer you use?

Best
 Jack

From: "EricNumis@aol.com" <EricNumis@aol.com>
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com
Sent: Wed, February 2, 2011 3:42:53 PM
Subject: Mass silver

Dear Jack :

I did not telephone you as I had planned because I found lots of new material that I want to share with you.

In the January 2011 The Numismatist page 27 there is an article on a beautiful NE shilling which stated that they were coined on a rocker press from a rolled strip (not a cut planchet): I do not know the author and presume he based his comment on reading something which may not be agreed to by me and others. If that method was used the impressed design would be much more uniform and cutting the circumference without turning the coin over several times would result in lots of spoilage. Please give me your thinking.

Next I have been seeking for several years more proof that my unique example of Pine Tree Noe 12 was from the Castine Hoard. I had some of it including Noe's ANS monograph on the Castine Hoard and other material but now have further proof from an 1863 Woodward auction sale which mentions the misspelling of the text on that coin which uses an extra S and five reversed letter "N" s. Copies from critical pages in the catalog are attached to this message. You will note that a foreign Castine item is also mentioned. You will note that the proceeds of my piece was \$6 when other pine tree pieces were bringing only \$1.

We have about 3 inches of sleet under the snow. We may get mail today.

Eric

Subj: **My Source of Noe 12**
Date: 2/4/2011 1:35:06 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis@aol.com
To: jackhowes@yahoo.com

Dear Jack:

You asked about my source of Pine Tree Noe 12. It is along story but when I bought the colonials from the E. H..R. Green Estate in 1941 with the participation of my mentor Burdette G.,Johnson, the famous coin dealer of St. Louis. I selected from time to time what I wanted but it did not include the Castine piece at first. Johnson took for himself the same value of pieces as I took. After those selections many remaining jointly owned pieces were sold by Johnson to third parties. His and my share of those proceeds were used to buy more Green Estate pieces. From time to time when items we bought did not sell I withdrew additional items including the Castine piece. Our list of the Waldo Newcomer collection (the bulk of which Green had purchased about 1931 through Mehl via Wayte Raymond) had the Castine piece in it I believe but can look that up if necessary,

I had a slight contact with Green in 1931 when he was helping maintaining radio contact with the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition and I was a student at MIT. My numismatic purchase happenstance came my way In 1941 long after Green had died and when I had virtually no hobby money.. Sheer luck just came my way. I do not know anyone who stumbled into such a deal..I will tell you more if you wish and can stand it..

Eric

7/10/2012

Dear Mr Newman:

First, I would like to tell you how much I appreciate all your work and time in trying to authenticate my NE shilling. For some reason I thought you were pretty much done with it. I now realize you were still working on it.

I wish now I would have asked about the status of your work on the coin.

I am sending you a donation for your organization and please advise if you feel it not adequate.

I feel I sought of cut you off early in your endeavors on the shilling.

Richard "Bale" Binette

How I acquired the NE Shilling

I was doing a coin show in Portland Maine in the early eighties when a guy stopped by my table asked if I would look at his coins. I said sure, so he took out 7 items he said he found in his yard in Falmouth Maine while digging to plant something. He saw a coin and started looking around the hole he had dug and found 6 more items.

He ended up with 4 George II and George III half pennies and a couple of ornaments. One that looks like a shoe buckle of the period.

The last piece was the NE shilling. I told him if this was real it would be worth a lot of money. He said he showed it to a couple of local people and they said it probably was not real.

We talked about it for a while and listening to his story intrigued me, so I asked him what he would take for the 7 pieces. He told me what he felt comfortable with and I said I would take a shot, So I bought the deal.

I believe the coin is real because of how it was found, where it was found, and what was found with it, all items of the period. All the items appear to have been in the ground for a very long time.

Falmouth Maine was settled in 1632 was leveled by the British in 1775, so the coins could have been in a house that was destroyed by the British?

I have kept the group together since I got them.

(I was offered \$10,000 from a major colonial dealer for it about 15 years ago)

Richard "Babe" Binette